tube of 2 feet each wherever a branch drain would in future be required—it would only be necessary to take out a 2 feet tube and replace it by another which had an oval aperture formed in it while in the plastic state.

The following sizes have been already made: 6 inches, 9 inches, 12 inches, 15 inches; and I expect to be able, as experience is acquired in the manufacture, to go up to 18 and 21 inches (the smaller diameter). We have now three makers engaged in producing these larger pipes for us as fast as their other engagements will allow, and are storing them up (having engaged a wharf expressly for the purpose) until we have a sufficient stock to make a fair start, and our legal forms will allow us to use them. I am confident of ultimate success, and that we shall save by their use 2,000*l.* a year in this township alone."

DECORATIONS IN LEATHER.

Except under peculiar circumstances, the public are a long time before they will adopt any novel mode of construction or new material: to make it known even is a matter of difficulty and cost. Mr. Leake's works for the production of the relievo leather decorations have been in active operation for some years, and yet, we will venture to say, this material is wholly unknown to two-thirds of our readers.

In various countries and from the earliest times, leather has been employed for interior decorations; and various examples of its use in England, especially of the medieval period, in the shape of stamped, painted, and gilded hangings, are to be found. Its toughness and strength, the ease with which ornamentation may be applied to it, and dust and dirt removed from it, pointed it out as a valuable material for the purpose. In its modern use, to which we would draw attention, its susceptibility of form has been taken advantage of, to a much greater extent than was formerly supposed possible, and a degree of relief obtained which, though in some degree it changes its character, widely increases the extent of its applicability. The process is simple: the leather is first subjected to the action of steam in a metal trough, which renders it susceptible of very minute impressions. The design it is to assume is formed in a metal mould, and into this the leather in its most "pliant hour" is forced by hydraulic power. When removed from the mould (and we may mention that scarcely any extent of undercutting prevents its withdrawal, in consequence of the yielding yet tenacious nature of the material at that moment) a little water-colour and varnish, it may be, bring it to the tint of either old or new woodwork: or it will receive such other painting or illumination as may be desired.

Works of considerable magnitude have been executed by Mr. Leake in the shape of *furniture*, as well as decorations, including much for her Majesty: the Ascending-room of the Colosseum (few people detect it) is fitted up in this manner; and further, the material is now being applied extensively to the enrichment of *book bindings*.

It is unnecessary for us to observe, that the material is applicable to the production of bad as well as of good ornament, and that, if it were not under competent direction, the results would be worse than valueless. Mr. Leake, however, educated an architect, evidently brings to the undertaking an artistic mind, and calls in good aid for the production of designs. Amongst a large number of patterns, we saw little to be found fault with, and much worthy of praise.

For the accompanying engravings of three friezes or borders (figs. 1, 2, and 3), a bracket (fig. 4), and a "drop" for the enrichment of pilasters or panelling (fig. 5), we are indebted to our liberal contemporary of the *Art-Union Journal*, who, in a recent number, described and illustrated the "Relievo Leather-works" very fully, and expressed a strong opinion in their favour.

Continental Railways.—Bradshaw's "Continental Railway Traveller's Manual," for the present month, is the most complete thing of the sort that has ever been published, including maps and information of great value to the tourist.

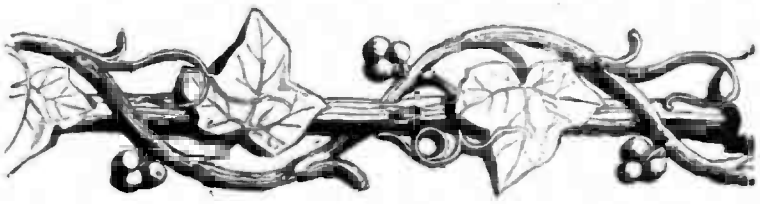


Fig. 1.

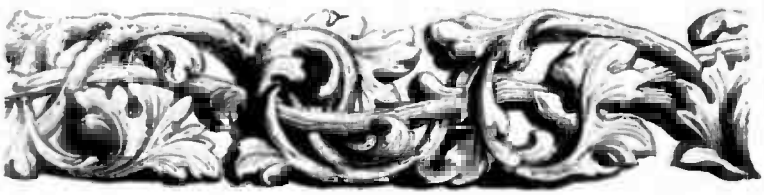


Fig. 2.

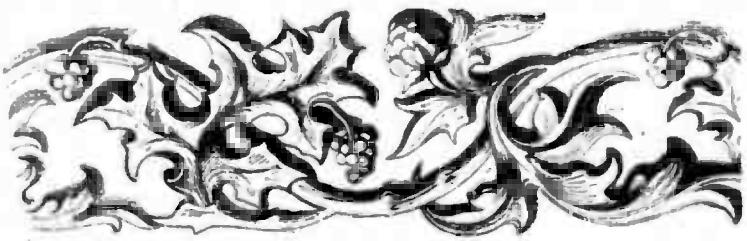


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

DECORATIONS IN LEATHER.

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